

§ 2526.60 How do convictions for the possession or sale of controlled substances affect an education award recipient's ability to use that award?

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a recipient of an education award who is convicted under pertinent Federal or State law of the possession or sale of a controlled substance is not eligible to use his or her education award from the date of the conviction until the end of a specified time period, which is determined based on the type of conviction as follows:

(1) For conviction of the possession of a controlled substance, the ineligibility periods are—

- (i) One year for a first conviction;
- (ii) Two years for a second conviction; and

(iii) For a third or subsequent conviction, indefinitely, as determined by the Corporation according to the following factors—

- (A) Type of controlled substance;
- (B) Amount of controlled substance;
- (C) Whether firearms or other dangerous weapons were involved in the offense;
- (D) Nature and extent of any other criminal record;
- (E) Nature and extent of any involvement in trafficking of controlled substances;
- (F) Length of time between offenses;
- (G) Employment history;
- (H) Service to the community;
- (I) Recommendations from community members and local officials, including experts in substance abuse and treatment; and
- (J) Any other relevant aggravating or ameliorating circumstances.

(2) For conviction of the sale of a controlled substance, the ineligibility periods are—

- (i) Two years for a first conviction; and
- (ii) Two years plus such additional time as the Corporation determines as appropriate for second and subsequent convictions, based on the factors set forth in paragraphs (a)(1)(iii) (A) through (J) of this section.

(b) (1) If the Corporation determines that an individual who has had his or her eligibility to use the education

award suspended pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section has successfully completed a legitimate drug rehabilitation program, or in the case of a first conviction that the individual has enrolled in a legitimate drug rehabilitation program, the individual's eligibility to use the education award will be restored.

(2) In order for the Corporation to determine that the requirements of paragraph (b)(1) of this section have been met—

(i) The drug rehabilitation program must be recognized as legitimate by appropriate Federal, State or local authorities; and

(ii) The individual's enrollment in or successful completion of the legitimate drug rehabilitation program must be certified by an appropriate official of that program.

§ 2526.70 What is the time period during which an individual must use an education award?

(a) *General requirement.* An individual must use an education award within seven years of the date on which the individual successfully completes a term of service, unless the individual applies for and receives an extension in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Extensions.* In order to receive an extension of the seven-year time period for using an education award, an individual must apply to the Corporation for an extension prior to the end of that time period. The Corporation will grant an application for an extension under the following circumstances:

(1) If the Corporation determines that an individual was performing another term of service in an approved AmeriCorps position during the seven-year period, the Corporation will grant an extension for a time period that is equivalent to the time period during which the individual was performing the other term of service.

(2) If the Corporation determines that an individual was unavoidably prevented from using the education award during the seven-year period,

the Corporation will grant an extension for a period of time that the Corporation deems appropriate. An individual who is ineligible to use an education award as a result of the individual's conviction of the possession or sale of a controlled substance under § 2526.40 is not considered to be unavoidably prevented from using the education award for the purposes of this paragraph.

§ 2526.80 How many education or Stafford loan forgiveness awards may an individual receive?

An individual may receive an education or Stafford loan forgiveness award for each of up to two terms of service. For the purposes of this section, full-time, part-time and reduced part-time terms of service described in § 2522.220 of this chapter are each considered terms of service.

§ 2526.90 May an individual receive an education or Stafford loan forgiveness award and loan cancellations for the same service?

No. Although an education award may be used to repay qualified student loans pursuant to § 2528.20 of this chapter, an individual may not receive an education or Stafford loan forgiveness award for a term of service and have that same service credited toward repayment of other student loans.

§ 2526.100 How are education and Stafford loan forgiveness awards treated in determining eligibility for financial assistance under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended?

Institutions of higher education shall consider education and Stafford loan forgiveness awards neither as income in calculating expected family contributions nor as estimated financial assistance in packaging assistance under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

PART 2527—AMOUNT OF AMERICORPS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 12601–12604.

§ 2527.10 How are the amounts of the education and Stafford loan forgiveness awards determined?

(a) *Education awards for full-time service.* The education award for full-time service is equal to 90 percent of—

(1) One-half of an amount equal to the aggregate basic educational assistance allowance provided in 38 U.S.C. 3015(b)(1) (as in effect on July 28, 1993), for the period referred to in 38 U.S.C. 3013(a)(1) (as in effect on July 28, 1993), for a member of the Armed forces who is entitled to such an allowance under 38 U.S.C. 3011 and whose initial obligated period of active duty is two years; less

(2) One-half of the aggregate basic contribution required to be made by the member in 38 U.S.C. 3011(b) (as in effect on July 28, 1993).

(b) *Stafford loan forgiveness awards for full-time service.* The Stafford loan forgiveness award for a full-time participant in a Stafford Loan Forgiveness program is equal to 15 percent of that greater of—

(1) That participant's current Stafford loan obligations that were incurred during the final two years of that participant's undergraduate education; or

(2) That participant's current Stafford loan obligations that were incurred during the most recent two years of that participant's graduate education in a teaching program.

(c) *Part-time service.* The education and Stafford loan forgiveness awards for part-time terms of service are equal to one-half of the corresponding full-time education and Stafford loan forgiveness awards described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(d) *Incomplete or reduced terms of service.* (1) The education or Stafford loan forgiveness awards for individuals who are released from a term of service for compelling personal circumstances and are eligible for a pro-rated full- or part-time education or Stafford loan forgiveness award in accordance with the requirements in § 2526.40 of this chapter, or for VISTA volunteers who are released due to the early of a project, are equal to the product of—

(i) The ratio of the portion of the term of service completed to the required term of service; and